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The Acts of the Apostles.

The Pulpit Commentary. The Acts of the Apostles. Exposition and Homiletics by the Rt. Hon. and Rt. Revd. Lord A. C. Hervey, D. D. Homilies by various authors, P. C. Barker, R. A. Redford, E. Johnson, R. Tuck, W. Clarkson. 2 vols. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. Price \$4.00.

The book of the Acts has not secured the attention which both the Gospels and the Epistles have obtained from modern scholars. The Tübingen school, indeed, has made large use of it in defense of their critical and historical theories but while they have over-emphasized the difficulties and thus led their more conservative opponents to minimize them, the book itself has not received a careful and dispassionate treatment. There is needed for such a task a man familiar with the life and literature of the early church, a scholar like the late Bishop Lightfoot. Such a scholar Bishop Hervey would not claim to be. He has produced a commentary which is careful and painstaking but not especially able. For the general reader and student it is probably as good a book as is at present attainable, being the most recent. But the archaeological researches now being pursued into the remains of Asia Minor are opening to us new and most important fields of illustration and argument for the Acts. Something new is coming to light every year. The study of the Ephesian marbles now in the British museum carried on by Canon Hicks is yielding fruit in this direction. The article of Lightfoot printed in his "Essays on Supernatural Religion" on Recent Discoveries illustrating the Acts of the Apostles is a case in point though much has been accomplished since that essay was written. The time is not far distant when our commentaries will all have to be re-written in the light of this new knowledge. This fact together with the need of a more thoroughgoing attention to the critical problems of the book incline one to be somewhat impatient with the cautious and quite commonplace work of the author but probably in comparison with much that has been done his exposition should take a good rank. The homiletic material is as usual abundant and of miscellaneous character and value.

The Epistles of Paul.

An American Commentary on the New Testament. Galatians by Alvah Hovey, D. D.; Ephesians by J. A. Smith, D. D.; Philippians by J. B. G. Pidge, D. D.; Colossians by E. C. Dargan, D. D.; I. and II. Thessalonians by Prof. W. A. Stevens; The Pastoral Epistles and Philemon by H. Harvey, D. D. 2 vols. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society.

With these volumes the enterprise undertaken by the Baptist Publication Society to furnish a complete commentary on the New Testament by Baptist scholars is fulfilled. The various parts are to be now re-arranged into seven volumes and sold at \$16.00. Of the present commentaries all are worthy of a place in the series and each partakes of the characteristics of its author. The Galatians by Pres. Hovey is prevailingly theological in tone, the Philippians and Colossians written by active pastors are homiletical and practical. The Thessalonians of Professor Stevens who occupies the chair of New Testament Exegesis at Rochester Theological Institution is the most satisfactory from an exegetical point of view and is one of the best commentaries which has been written upon these epistles. The editor, President Hovey and the publishers are to be congratulated that this series, which contains so many volumes of more than average excellence, is now completed.